Message Text

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PAGE 01 DURBAN 00460 030920Z ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 HA-05 /080 W

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R 030825Z AUG 78 FM AMCONSUL DURBAN TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3015 INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS DURBAN 0460

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, SOCI, SF

SUBJ: SAG DEMOLISHES PORTION OF SQUATTER SETTLEMENT OUTSIDE DURBAN

- 1. THE DURBAN PLURAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, USING BULLDOZERS AND SELECTED BURNING, DEMOLISHED APPROXIMATELY 200 "ILLEGAL" SQUATTER SHACKS AT THE RICHMOND FARM SETTLEMENT ADJACENT TO THE DURBAN BLACK TOWNSHIP OF KWAMASHU AT THE END OF JULY. DWELLINGS TORN DOWN REPRESENTED A PORTION OF HUNDREDS OF HOMES IN THIS PARTICULAR SETTLEMENT. THEY WERE DESTROYED BECAUSE OF THEIR CONSTRUCTION IN PAST SIX MONTHS, AFTER AN INFORMAL ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE LOCAL LIAISON COUNCIL AND PLURAL AFFAIRS PERMITTING EXISTING "ILLEGAL" DWELLINGS IN THE SETTLEMENT TO REMAIN FOR THE TIME BEING BUT FORBIDDING ANY FURTHER CONSTRUCTION IN THE AREA. THE LAD BELONGS TO S.A. BANTU TRUST, NOT KWAZULU, BUT IS TO BE INCORPORATED INTO KWAZULU AT SOME UNSPECIFIED TIME AND IS THEN TO BE THE SITE OF A HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.
- 2. WHILE FORMAL WARNING OF THE DEMOLITION WAS APPARENTLY GIVEN TO THE OWNERS OF THE DWELLINGS, REPORTEDLY OWNER/LAND-UNCLASSIFIED $\,$

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PAGE 02 DURBAN 00460 030920Z

LORDS FAILED TO TELL SOME TENANTS, MANY OF WHOM RETURNED FROM WORK TO FIND THEIR HOMES DEMOLISHED AND FURNISHINGS BURNED. ACCORDING TO A LOCAL COUNCILLOR MOST OF THE AFFECTED TENANTS ARE EMPLOYED AND ARE ON WAITING LISTS FOR HOMES. THEY HAD LIVED IN OVERCROWDED CONDITIONS IN "LEGAL" HOMES IN NEARBY TOWNSHIPS BUT HAD CHOSE TO SQUAT ON THIS LAND TO ALLOW THEIR FAMILIES TO JOIN THEM FROM RURAL KWAZULU. MOST OF THE HOME-

LESS REPORTEDLY HAVE SQUEEZED IN WITH NEIGHBORS OR RECONSTRUCTED SHACKS FROM REMAINS OF THEIR DWELLINGS. A LOCAL COMMITTEE WILL PURSUE THE MATTER WITH PLURAL ADMINISTRATION BUT IS NOT HOPEFUL OF DEVISING A SUITABLE SOLUTION. FARBER

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TAGS: PINT, SOCI, SF

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